

CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES

New Jersey – 2000

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

IN COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Project

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This document is available on the Internet at:
www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/survweb

FOREWARD

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) Project is a cooperative effort between the federal government and state governments. It was initiated in 1990 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Data is collected from 50 states and U.S. territories. The impetus for the CFOI project was the lack of a true count of occupational injury fatalities. Estimates of the number of fatal injuries varied widely due to different reporting sources and definitions. CFOI's objective is to collect detailed information on every occupational injury fatality in a timely manner. The national data file is available to researchers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

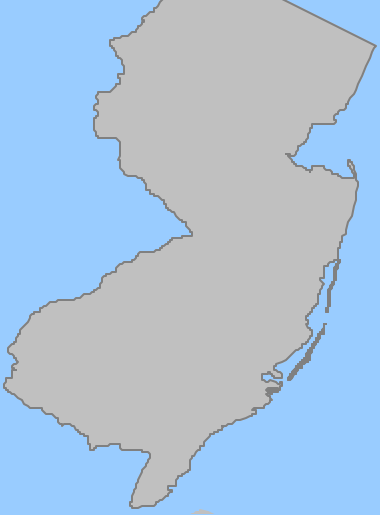
The BLS and the states provide matching funds to conduct the CFOI project. The states actively collect, verify, code, computerize, and transmit to BLS detailed information on work-related fatal injuries. Coding is done according to the BLS protocol. Identifying information such as workers' names, employers' names, and company names are not sent to BLS. In New Jersey, the CFOI project is conducted by the Occupational Health Service within the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

In this publication, totals of some categories may not be the same as those published by the BLS for New Jersey. Differences may be due to grouping of information.

The Internet address for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, is: www.bls.gov/oshfat1.htm.

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- A light gray map of the state of New Jersey is positioned on the right side of the slide, above the word 'HIGHLIGHTS'.
- ## HIGHLIGHTS
- Total number of fatal injuries in New Jersey: 115
 - Total number of fatal injuries in United States: 5,915
 - 109 were men and 6 were women
 - 27% were foreign-born
 - Age at death ranged from 19 to 89, average age was 41; 5% were younger than 45 years old
 - A total of 2,578 potential years of work life (the total number of years before age 65 of all the victims) was lost, an average of 22 years per fatality.
 - 92% were employed by New Jersey businesses
 - 89% were residents of New Jersey
 - 104 worked for wages or salary, 9 were self-employed
 - 99 worked in the private sector, 16 were public employees
 - The majority of fatal injuries occurred in the industries of construction (26), transportation and public utilities (25), and services (23).
 - The percent of fatal injuries occurring by company size was: 1 - 10 employees, 41%, and over 100 employees, 22%.
 - The highest number of fatal injuries occurred in the occupations of operators, fabricators, and laborers (54) and precision production, craft, and repair (18).
 - The most common fatal events included transportation incidents (49), falls (23), and contact with objects and equipment (19).

DATA SPECIFICATIONS

The following individuals are included:

- ◆ Private and public sector employees
- ◆ Self-employed persons
- ◆ Certain volunteers (firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical service workers)
- ◆ Persons traveling on the job, but not commuting to or from work
- ◆ Institutionalized persons who are fatally injured while employed off the premises of their institutions

All fatal work-related injuries that occurred in New Jersey in 2000 were included in this report, including those caused by homicides, suicides, and motor vehicle incidents. Only deaths due to an injury are included; deaths due to an occupational illness are not included. *A death is considered work-related if the event leading to the fatal injury occurred while the employee was working, either on or off the employer's premises.* Fatal occupational injuries are classified according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' protocol. The coding systems used are listed in footnotes to the tables in this report.

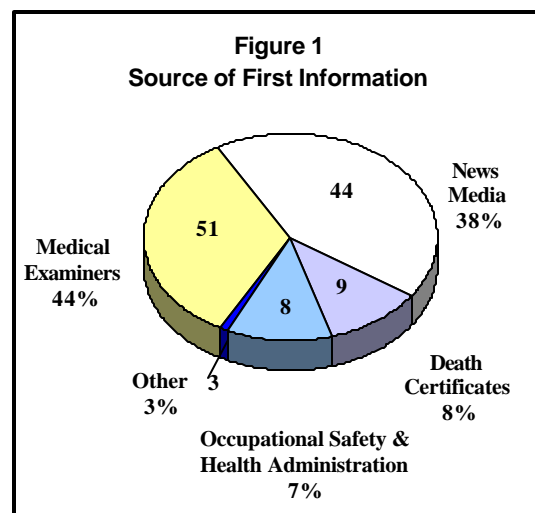
An occupational injury is defined as a wound or other condition caused by external forces or caused by a specific event or incident or series of events within a single work day. Work-related

injuries listed as an underlying or contributory cause on the death certificate or medical examiner's report are included. An example of this is a death that was caused by pneumonia after the worker was hospitalized with injuries that occurred at work.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The work-relationship of each fatality is confirmed by at least two sources. Sources and documents used are newspaper articles, medical examiner reports, police reports, NJ Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) reports, and other state and federal agency reports. A follow-back questionnaire is sent to employers or other knowledgeable persons, when needed, to gather additional information.

Figure 1 shows that county and state medical examiners were the major source of initial information about the fatal injuries, followed by information from the news media, including newspaper articles.



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Numbers

Table 1 shows the employer, employment status, gender, race, and age of the 115 victims of fatal work-related injuries in New Jersey in 2000. Ninety-one percent of the victims worked for wages and salaries and 14% were government employees. Most of the victims were male (95%). The workers' ages ranged from 19 to 89 with 54% younger than 45 years of age.

TABLE 1

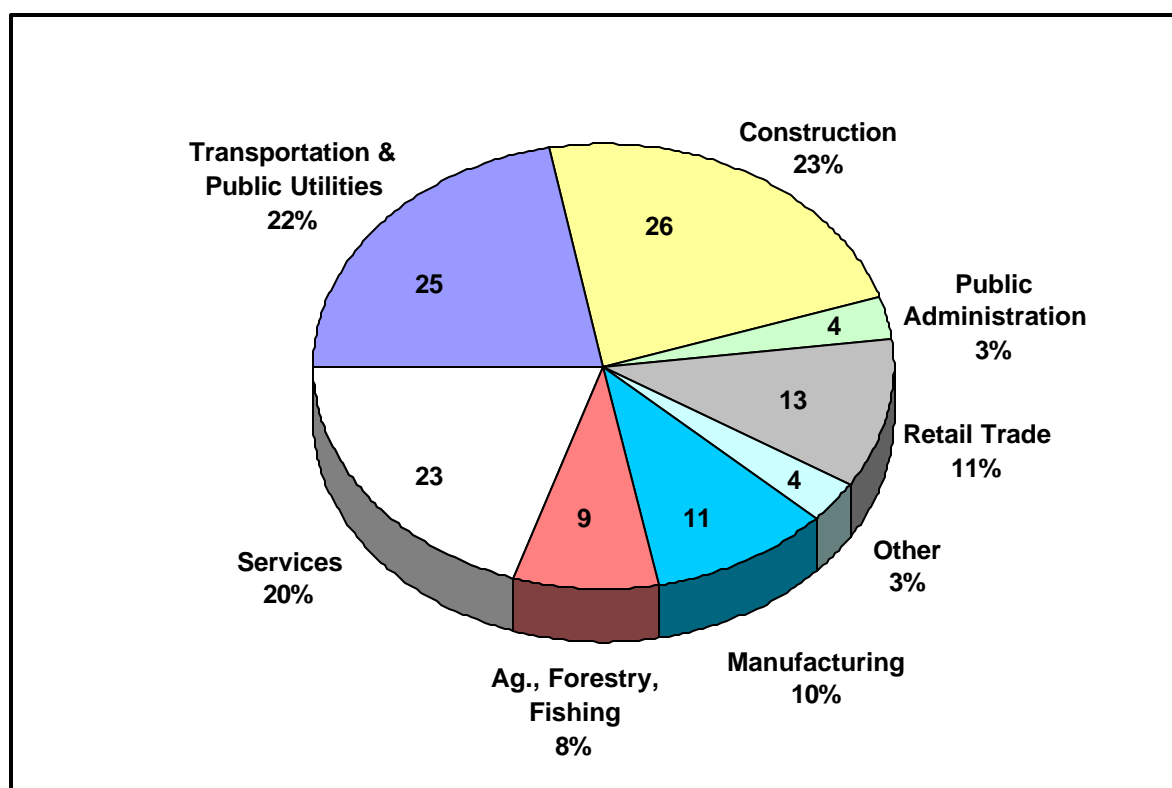
**Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Selected Demographic Characteristics
New Jersey, 2000 (N=115)**

CHARACTERISTIC	NUMBER	PERCENT
TOTAL	115	100
Employer		
<i>Private</i>	99	86
<i>Government</i>	16	14
Employment Status		
<i>Wage and Salary Workers</i>	104	91
<i>Self-employed*</i>	9	8
<i>Others</i>	2	1
Gender		
<i>Men</i>	109	95
<i>Women</i>	6	5
Race**		
<i>White</i>	94	82
<i>Black</i>	15	13
<i>Other or Unknown</i>	6	5
Age		
<i>16 to 24 years</i>	10	9
<i>25 to 34 years</i>	20	17
<i>35 to 44 years</i>	32	28
<i>45 to 54 years</i>	32	28
<i>55 to 64 years</i>	14	12
<i>65 years and older</i>	7	6
* Owners of unincorporated businesses. ** Race categories include Hispanic and Non-Hispanic workers. Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.		

INDUSTRY

The majority of fatal injuries occurred in the industries of construction (26), transportation and public utilities (25), and services (23).

FIGURE 2
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Industry*
New Jersey, 2000 (N=115)



* Based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual.
Includes workers employed in government with a SIC in other industries – 8 in services,
3 in transportation and public utilities, and 1 in construction.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

OCCUPATION

TABLE 2
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Occupation
New Jersey, 2000 (N=115)

OCCUPATION*	NUMBER**	PERCENT
Operators, Fabricators, and Laborers	54	47
<i>Transportation and material moving occupations</i>	24	
<i>Motor vehicle operators</i>	19	
<i>Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, & laborers</i>	24	
<i>Construction laborers</i>	10	
<i>Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors</i>	6	
Precision Production, Craft, and Repair	18	16
<i>Construction trades</i>	11	
<i>Construction trades, except supervisors</i>	9	
Managerial and Professional Specialty	15	13
<i>Executive, administrative, and managerial</i>	11	
<i>Managers and administrators, not elsewhere classified</i>	6	
Service Occupations	10	9
<i>Service occupations, except protective and household</i>	7	
<i>Cleaners and building service occupations</i>	4	
Technical, Sales, and Administrative Support	10	9
<i>Technical and related support occupations</i>	5	
<i>Sales occupations</i>	4	
Farming, Forestry, and Fishing	8	7
<i>Other agricultural and related occupations</i>	6	
All Occupations	115	100

* Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

** Subcategories may not total major categories. Not all subcategories are shown.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

EVENT OR EXPOSURE

The event describes the manner in which the injury was produced or inflicted by the source of the injury. Event or exposure codes may differ from external cause of injury (E-Codes) due to differences in definitions and classification.

TABLE 3
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Event or Exposure
New Jersey, 2000 (N=115)

EVENT OR EXPOSURE*	NUMBER**	PERCENT
Transportation Incidents	49	43
Highway	17	
Collision between vehicles	11	
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	6	
Nonhighway	6	
Noncollision	5	
Worker struck by vehicle	14	
In parking lot or non-road area	7	
In roadway	4	
On side of the road	3	
Aircraft	11	
Falls	23	20
Fall to lower level	22	
From a ladder	6	
From a roof	5	
To a lower level, not elsewhere classified.	6	
Contact with Objects and Equipment	19	17
Struck by object	14	
Struck by falling object	10	
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	5	
Assaults and Violent Acts	15	13
Homicide	10	
Suicide	5	
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	6	5
Contact with electric current	3	
Other	3	2
All Events or Exposures	115	100
<p>* Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures. ** Subcategories may not total major categories. Not all subcategories are shown.</p> <p>Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.</p>		

EXTERNAL CAUSE OF INJURY

External Cause of Injury Codes (E-codes) classify the environmental events, circumstances, and conditions as the causes of the injury, poisoning, or other adverse effects. E-Codes and event/exposure codes may differ because of differences in definitions and classification.

TABLE 4
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by External Cause of Injury
New Jersey, 2000 (N=115)

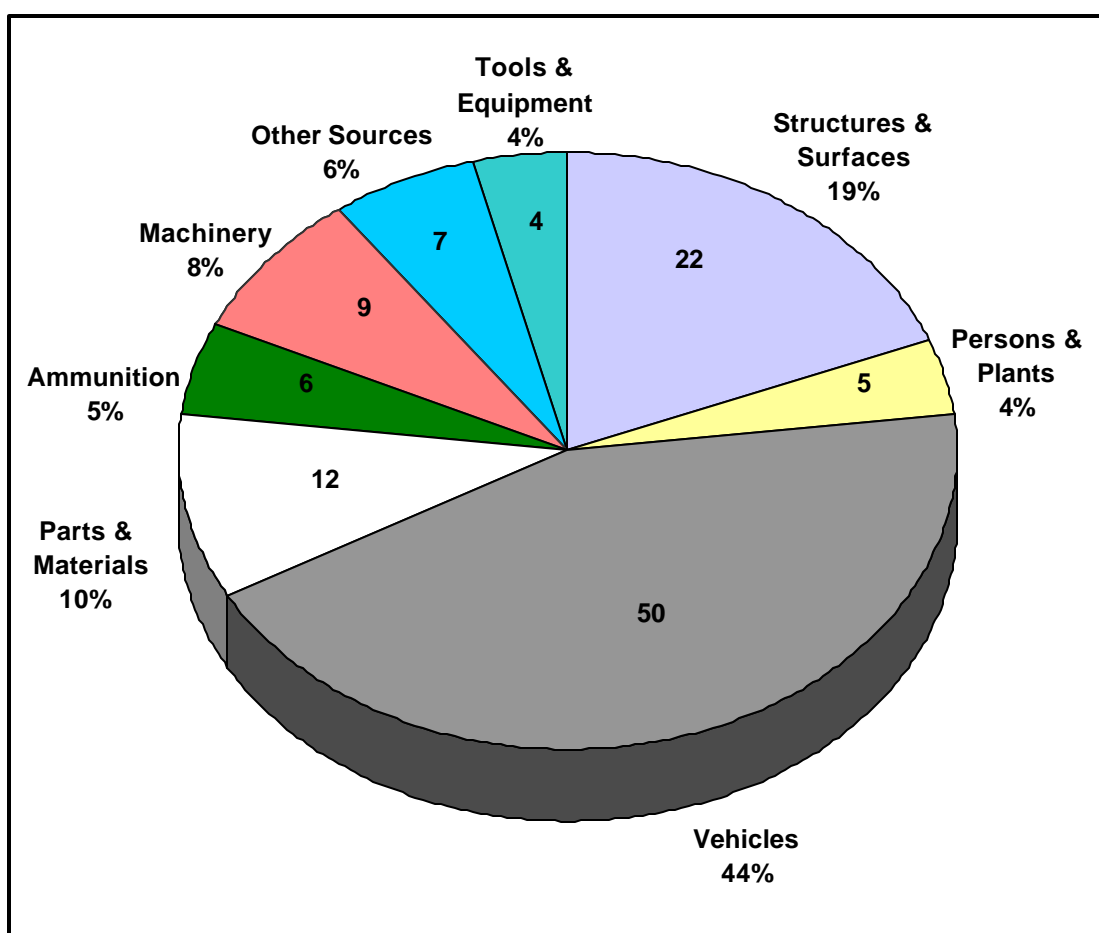
EXTERNAL CAUSE OF INJURY*	NUMBER**	PERCENT
All Transportation Accidents	43	37
Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents	27	
<i>Involving collision with motor vehicle</i>	<i>10</i>	
<i>Involving collision with pedestrian</i>	<i>8</i>	
<i>Involving collision with other than motor vehicle</i>	<i>4</i>	
<i>Without collision</i>	<i>3</i>	
Motor Vehicle Nontraffic Accident	5	
<i>Involving collision with pedestrian</i>	<i>4</i>	
Air Transport	11	
Accidental Falls	22	19
<i>Fall from ladder</i>	<i>6</i>	
<i>Fall from or out of building</i>	<i>6</i>	
<i>Fall from stairs or steps</i>	<i>3</i>	
Homicides & Injuries Purposely Inflicted	10	9
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injury	5	4
Accidents Caused by Machinery	12	10
Struck by Falling Object	10	9
Struck by or against Objects or Persons	3	3
Caused by Electric Current	4	4
Other	6	5
All External Causes of Injuries	115	100
* Based on the International Classification of Disease, 9 th Edition, External Injury Codes (ICD-9 E-Codes).		
** Subcategories may not total major categories. Not all subcategories are shown.		
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.		

SOURCE OF INJURY

The sources (the objects, substances, exposures, or bodily motions that directly produced the injury) of the 115 fatal injuries are shown in Figure 3. The vehicle, the most common source of injury, was the vehicle in which the decedent was an occupant. If a pedestrian was fatally injured, the source was the vehicle that struck the decedent. In a fall, the source was the surface or object to which the decedent fell.

Forty-four percent of all work-related fatal injuries involved vehicles. The vehicles included 33 highway vehicles with 22 trucks (including 9 tractor-trailers), 7 autos, and 4 vans. Nineteen percent of the sources were structures and surfaces (including 8 floors of buildings and 7 outdoor walking surfaces or ground).

Figure 3
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Source of Injury*
New Jersey, 2000 (N=115)



* Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

WORKER ACTIVITY

Table 5 indicates the activity of the worker at the time of occurrence of the 115 fatal injuries. The most common activities were vehicular and transportation operations (37%), including driving or operating a vehicle, and constructing, repairing, and cleaning (23%).

TABLE 5
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Worker Activity
New Jersey, 2000, (N=115)

WORKER ACTIVITY*	NUMBER**	PERCENT
Vehicular and Transportation Operations	42	37
<i>Driving or operating</i>	<i>24</i>	
<i>Truck</i>	<i>10</i>	
<i>Automobile</i>	<i>4</i>	
<i>Walking in or near a roadway</i>	<i>6</i>	
<i>Riding in an aircraft</i>	<i>7</i>	
Constructing, Repairing, Cleaning	27	23
<i>Construction, assembling, dismantling</i>	<i>10</i>	
<i>Installing</i>	<i>5</i>	
<i>Repair, maintenance</i>	<i>6</i>	
Using, Operating Tools and Machinery	7	6
<i>Logging, trimming, pruning</i>	<i>3</i>	
Material Handling Operations	11	10
<i>Loading, unloading, packing, unpacking</i>	<i>5</i>	
Physical Activities	13	11
Other Activities	7	6
<i>Tending a retail establishment</i>	<i>4</i>	
Activity Unspecified or Unknown	8	7
All Activities	115	100
<p>* Based on activity codes developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.</p> <p>** Subcategories may not total major categories. Not all subcategories are shown.</p> <p>Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.</p>		

LOCATION

Table 6 shows the location of the 115 workers at the time of their injury. Most of the decedents were working at industrial places (28%) or on streets or highways, especially local roads and streets (23%). Twelve workers were fatally injured at construction sites that include general construction, residential construction, and road construction.

TABLE 6
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Location of the Worker
New Jersey, 2000 (N=115)

WORKER'S LOCATION*	NUMBER**	PERCENT
Industrial Places and Premises	32	28
<i>Factory, plant</i>	7	
<i>Warehouse</i>	5	
<i>Industrial yard</i>	4	
Street or Highway	26	23
<i>Local road or street</i>	15	
<i>Interstate, freeway, expressway</i>	6	
<i>Multiple access roads</i>	5	
Public Building	15	13
<i>Convenience store or other store</i>	6	
Home	7	6
Construction Sites***	12	10
Other Places	17	15
<i>Parking lots</i>	8	
Other Places and Unknown	6	5
All Locations	115	100
<p>* Based on location codes developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.</p> <p>** Subcategories may not total major categories. Not all subcategories are shown.</p> <p>*** Construction sites include residential, road, and general construction sites.</p> <p>Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.</p>		

TABLE 7
Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure*
New Jersey, 1991 – 2000 (N=1,174)

Event or Exposure	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total	133¹	139²	147³	114	118	100⁴	101	103	104⁵	115
Transportation	35	49	57	36	41	40	31	44	36	49
Highway	21	25	25	15	24	18	9	21	16	17
Collision between vehicles	12	14	11	11	14	9	2	12	8	11
Collision with stationary object	5	8	11	*	9	7	5	7	4	3
Nonhighway	*	6	4	4	3	*	5	9	*	6
Pedestrians struck by vehicle	10	15	17	12	10	14	11	12	8	14
On road or side of road	4	10	11	8	7	8	7	6	5	7
In non-roadway area	6	5	6	4	3	6	4	6	3	7
Water vehicle accident	*	*	7	*	*	3	*	*	9	0
Aircraft accident	*	*	*	4	*	*	*	*	*	11
Homicide	31	29	20	22	25	14⁵	15	13	15	10
Shooting	27	20	11	16	20	7	11	6	10	4
Falls to Lower Levels	15	18	27	13	13	7	16	14	21	22
From ladders	5	5	7	*	5	*	6	4	5	6
Accidents Caused by Electricity	13	6	7	8	5	6	9	8	*	3
Struck by Object	11	3	11	6	8	11	6	12	4	14

¹Original Census = 106; revised to 112. Twenty-one additional fatal injuries were added after the close of the year.

²Original Census = 114; revised to 138. One additional fatal injury was added after the close of the year.

³Original Census = 142; revised to 145. Two additional fatal injuries were added after the close of the year.

⁴Original Census = 99; revised to 100.

⁵Original Census = 103; revised to 104.

*Note: Only major categories are shown. Only categories with three or more incidents are shown.